

Remarks

The present patent application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/856,311, filed August 21, 2001, which was derived from an International (PCT) Application, No. PCT/FR99/02790, which designated the United States and which was assigned an International Filing Date of November 15, 1999.

This paper is being filed to provide "Related Case" information pertaining to the present patent application, the entry of which is respectfully requested, and to advise the U.S. Patent Office of information cited during the examination of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/856,311 which may be considered "material to patentability" in examining this patent application, in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

The following documents are noted for being cited in the Search Report issued for International Application No. PCT/FR99/02790:

U.S. Patent

4,001,069 (DiMatteo) - Issued: January 4, 1977

Foreign Documents

EP 0 738 583 (KIRA Corp.) - Published: October 23, 1996

EP 0 655 317 (IBM) - Published: May 31, 1995

EP 0 606 627 (IBM) - Published: July 20, 1994
EP 0 585 502 (Laboratoire ERIN.MP - Equipes de
Recherche en Interface Numérique Mécanique
et Production) - Published: March 9, 1994
WO/95 08416 (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
- Published: March 30, 1995

In addition to the documents cited in the International Search Report, the International Preliminary Examination Report further listed the following document:

U.S. Patent

5,354,414 (Feygin) - Issued: October 11, 1994

The U.S. Patent Office is also advised of an earlier search which had been performed relative to French Patent Application No. 98/14687, the priority of which is claimed in connection with the present application. The documents cited in this French Search Report (No. FA 564949) duplicate the documents cited in the International Search Report.

The following documents are further noted for being additionally cited by the U.S. Patent Office during the examination of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/856,311:

U.S. Patents

5,793,015 (Walczyk) - Issued: August 11, 1998

5,663,883 (Thomas et al.) - Issued: September 2, 1997
5,031,483 (Weaver) - Issued: July 16, 1991
5,015,312 (Kinzie) - Issued: May 14, 1991
4,752,352 (Feygin) - Issued: June 21, 1988

U.S. Patent Publication

2003/0006001 (Yang et al.) - Published: January 9, 2003

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/856,311 was co-filed with an application derived from International Application No. PCT/FR99/02788, which was assigned the U.S. Patent Application No. 09/856,208, and which has since issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,745,446, on June 8, 2004. The Search Report issued for International Application No. PCT/FR99/02788, and a Search Report (No. FA 564950) issued for French Patent Application No. 98/14688, the priority of which is claimed in connection with International Application No. PCT/FR99/02788, cite the same documents, including:

Foreign Documents

DE 40 41 105 (Toepholm & Westermann APS) -
- Published: June 25, 1992
EP 655 668 (Ford Motor Company Ltd.) -
- Published: May 31, 1995

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/856,208 has been

examined. In addition to documents which are mentioned elsewhere in this Information Disclosure Statement, the following documents were cited during the examination of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/856,208:

U.S. Patents

6,324,438 (Cormier et al.) - Issued: November 27, 2001
6,136,132 (Kinzie) - Issued: October 24, 2000
5,847,958 (Shaikh et al.) - Issued: December 8, 1998
5,765,137 (Lee) - Issued: June 9, 1998
5,514,232 (Burns) - Issued: May 7, 1996
4,675,825 (DeMenthon) - Issued: June 23, 1987
3,932,923 (DiMatteo) - Issued: January 20, 1976

Foreign Document

2,011,814 (United Kingdom) - Published: July 18, 1979

The U.S. Patent Office is further advised of a later filed International Application, No. PCT/FR01/01444, which has since been assigned the U.S. Patent Application No. 10/276,218. The Search Report issued for International Application No. PCT/FR01/01444, and a Search Report (No. FA 587287) issued for French Patent Application No. 00/06184, the priority of which is claimed in connection with International Application No. PCT/FR01/01444, cite the same documents, including:

U.S. Patent

3,790,152 (Parsons) - Issued: February 5, 1974

Foreign Documents

EP 0 811 457 (Tarumizu) - Published: December 10, 1997

FR 2 233 137 (Della Flora) - Published: January 10, 1975

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/276,218 has been examined. In addition to documents which are mentioned elsewhere in this Information Disclosure Statement, the following document was cited during the examination of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/276,218:

U.S. Patent

3,612,387 (Rathbun) - Issued: October 12, 1971

The U.S. Patent Office is further advised of a later filed International Application, No. PCT/FR01/01445, which has since been assigned the U.S. Patent Application No. 10/276,217. The Search Report issued for International Application No. PCT/FR01/01445, and a Search Report (No. FA 587980) issued for French Patent Application No. 00/06181, the priority of which is claimed in connection with International Application No. PCT/FR01/01445, cite the same documents, including:

Foreign Documents

DE 37 11 470 (Fraunhofer Ges... Forschung) -

- Published: October 27, 1988

FR 2 750 064 (Richardson) - Published: December 26, 1997

FR 2 673 302 (Barlier) - Published: August 28, 1992

WO 91/12120 (Quadrex Corp.) - Published: August 22, 1991

Other Documents

Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol. 016, no. 370 (M-1292) -

- Published: August 10, 1992 (pertaining to JP 04
118221 (Fujitsu Ltd.), published April 20, 1992)

Patent Abstracts of Japan, vol. 1995, no. 11 -

- Published: December 26, 1995 (pertaining to JP
07 214274 (U Mold:KK), published August 15, 1995)

Copies of the above-listed documents and Search Reports were enclosed with the several Information Disclosure Statements which were submitted to bring such information to the attention of the U.S. Patent Office during the prosecution of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/856,311. A concise explanation of the relevance of non-English language documents is available with reference to the Search Report which cites the non-English language document.

Because the earlier application No. 09/856,311 has been properly identified in this Information Disclosure Statement, and is relied on for an earlier effective filing date under 35 U.S.C.

§120, and because the Information Disclosure Statements submitted in the earlier application complied with paragraphs (a) through (c) of 37 C.F.R. §1.98, copies of the above-listed documents are not submitted herewith, pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d).

Due consideration of the foregoing documents is respectfully requested, and it is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge consideration of these documents by initialing the PTO-1449 forms (3) which are enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement and which list the foregoing documents.

The above-referenced U.S. Patent Application No. 10/276,217 has also been examined. In addition to documents which are mentioned elsewhere in this Information Disclosure Statement, the following documents were cited during the examination of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/276,217:

U.S. Patents

6,617,601 (Wiklund) - Issued: September 9, 2003
6,409,902 (Yang et al.) - Issued: June 25, 2002
6,405,095 (Jang et al.) - Issued: June 11, 2002
6,358,029 (Niimi) - Issued: March 19, 2002
6,284,182 (McNally) - Issued: September 4, 2001
6,276,656 (Baresich) - Issued: August 21, 2001
5,725,891 (Reid, Jr.) - Issued: March 10, 1998
4,781,555 (Cook) - Issued: November 1, 1988

4,601,652 (Ando et al.) - Issued: July 22, 1986
4,586,690 (Härtel et al.) - Issued: May 6, 1986
4,338,068 (Suh et al.) - Issued: July 6, 1982
3,039,146 (Engel) - Issued: June 19, 1962
2,479,191 (Williams et al.) - Issued: August 16, 1949
2,477,060 (Hudak) - Issued: July 26, 1949
2,428,658 (Falk et al.) - Issued: October 7, 1947

Other Document

Bocking et al., "Electrochemical Routes for Engineering Tool Production", The GEC Journal of Technology, Vol. 14, No. 2, pages 66 to 74 (1997)

Copies of these documents are enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement for consideration in this matter, and the consideration of these documents is respectfully requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.56(a)(2).

It is further respectfully requested that the Examiner provide applicant with initialed copies of the enclosed PTO-1449 forms (3) to confirm consideration of the documents listed.


Respectfully submitted,

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" on July 15, 2004.

Date:

7/15/04

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